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PLASTRON. *n. f.* [French.] A piece of leather stuffed, which fencers use, when they teach their scholars, in order to receive the pusses made at them. *Trevoux.*
Against the post their wicker shields they crush,
Flourish the sword, and at the *plastron* push. *Dryden.*
PLAT. *v. a.* [from *plat.*] To weave; to make by texture.
I have seen nests of an Indian bird curiously interwoven and *platted* together. *Roy on the Creation.*
I never found so much benefit from any expedient, as from a ring, in which my mistress's hair is *platted* in a kind of true lovers knot. *Addison's Spectator, N° 245.*
PLAT. *n. f.* [more properly *plat*; *plot*, Sax.] A small piece of ground.
Such pleasure took the serpent to behold
This flow'ry *plat*, the sweet recess of Eve. *Milton.*
On a *plat* of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide-water'd shore,
Swinging slow with fullen roar. *Milton.*
It passes through banks of violets and *plats* of willow of its own producing. *Spectator.*
PLATANE. *n. f.* [*platane*, Fr. *platanus*, Lat.] The plane tree.
The *platane* round,
The carver holm, the mapple seldom inward found. *Spens.*
I clip'd thee, fair and tall,
Under a *platane*. *Milton.*
PLATE. *n. f.* [*plate*, Dutch; *plaque*, Fr.]
1. A piece of metal beat out into breadth.
In his livery
Walk'd crowns and coronets, realms and islands were
As *plates* dropt from his pocket. *Shakspeare.*
Make a *plate*, and burnish it as they do iron. *Bacon.*
A leaden bullet-shot from one of these guns, the space of twenty paces, will be beaten into a thin *plate*. *Wilkins.*
The censers of these wretches, who could derive no sanctity to them; yet in that they had been consecrated by the offering incense, were appointed to be beaten into broad *plates*, and fastened upon the altar. *South's Sermons.*
Eternal deities!
Who rule the world with absolute decrees,
And write whatever time shall bring to pass
With pens of adamant on *plates* of brains. *Dryden.*
2. Armour of plates.
With their force they pierc'd both *plate* and mail,
And made wide furrows in their fleshes trail. *Fa. Queen.*
3. [*Plata*, Spanish.] Wrought silver.
They eat on beds of silk and gold,
And leaving *plate*,
Do drink in stone of higher rate. *Benj. Johnson's Catalogue.*
The Turks entered into the trenches so fat, that they carried away the *plate*. *Knut's Hist. of the Turks.*
They that but now for honour and for *plate*
Made the sea blush with blood, resign their hate. *Waller.*
At your desert bright pewter comes too late,
When your first court was all serv'd up in *plate*. *King.*
4. [*Plat*, Fr. *platta*, Italian.] A small shallow vessel of metal on which meat is eaten.
Africanus thus observ'd, and, smiling, said,
See, we devour the *plates* on which we fed. *Dryden.*
TO PLATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To cover with plates.
The doors are curiously cut through and *plated*. *Sandys.*
M. Lepidus's house had a marble door-case; afterwards they had gilded ones, or rather *plated* with gold. *Arbutnot.*
2. To arm with plates.
Plate sin with gold,
And the strong lance of justice hurtles breaks. *Shakspeare.*
Marshall, ask yonder knight in arms,
Why *plated* in habiliments of war?
His goodly eyes,
That o'er the files and musters of the war,
Have glow'd like *plated* Mars. *Shakspeare.*
The bold Alcalonite
Fled from his lion ramp, old warriors turn'd
Their *plated* backs under his heel. *Milton.*
3. To beat into laminae or plates.
If to fame alone thou dost pretend,
The miser will his empty palace lend,
Set wide his doors, adorn'd with *plated* brass. *Dryden.*
If a thinned or *plated* body, of an uneven thickness, which appears all over of one uniform colour, should be slit into threads of the same thickness with the *plate*; I see no reason why every thread should not keep its colour. *Newton.*
PLATEN. *n. f.* Among printers, the flat part of the press whereby the impression is made.
PLATFORM. *n. f.* [*plat*, flat, Fr. and *form*.]
1. The sketch of any thing horizontally delineated; the ichnography.
When the workmen began to lay the *platform* at Chalcedon, eagles conveyed their lutes to the other side of the freight. *Samuel's Journey.*

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2. A place laid out after any model.
No artful wildness to perplex the scene;
Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,
And half the *platform* just reflects the other. *Pope.*
3. A level place before a fortification.
Where was this?
—Upon the *platform* where we watch. *Shakspeare.*
4. A scheme; a plan.
Their minds and affections were universally bent even against all the orders and laws wherein this church is founded, conformable to the *platform* of Geneva. *Hobbes.*
I have made a *platform* of a princely garden by precept, partly by drawing not a model, but some general lines of it. *Bacon's Essays.*
They who take in the entire *platform*, and see the chain, which runs through the whole, and can bear in mind the observations and proofs, will discern how these propositions flow from them. *Woodward.*
PLATICK aspect. In astrology, is a ray cast from one planet to another, not exactly, but within the orbit of its own light. *Bailly.*
PLATOON. *n. f.* [a corruption of *peloton*, Fr.] A small square body of musketeers, drawn out of a battalion of foot, when they form the hollow square, to strengthen the angles: the grenadiers are generally thus posted; yet a party from any other division is called a *platoon*, when intending to far from the main body. *Military Dict.*
In comely wounds shall bleeding worthies stand,
Webb's firm *platoon*, and Lumley's faithful band. *Tidell.*
PLATTER. *n. f.* [from *plate*.] A large dish, generally of earthen.
The servants wash the *platter*, scour the plate,
Then blow the fire. *Dryden's Juvenal.*
Satira is an adjective, to which lanx, a charger, or large *platter* is underfoot. *Dryden.*
PLAUDIT. *n. f.* [A word derived from the Latin, *plaudite*, *PLAUDITE*.] The demand of applause made by the player, when he left the stage. Applause.
True wisdom must our actions so direct,
Not only the last *plaudit* to expect. *Denham.*
She would so shamefully fail in the last act, that instead of a *plaudite*, she would deserve to be hissed off the stage. *Mars.*
Some men find more melody in discord than in the angelic quires; yet even these can discern music in a concert of *plaudites*, eulogies given themselves. *Deacy of Pitt.*
PLAUSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*plausibilitè*, Fr. from *plausibile*.] Speciousness; superficial appearance of right.
Two pamphlets, called the management of the war, are written with some *plausibility*, much artifice and direct falsehoods. *Swift.*
The last excuse for the slow steps made in disarming the adversaries of the crown, was allowed indeed to have more *plausibility*, but less truth, than any of the former. *Swift.*
PLAUSIBLE. *adj.* [*plausibile*, Fr. *plausibilis*, from *plaudere*, Lat.] Such as gains approbation; superficially pleasing or taking; specious; popular; right in appearance.
Go you to Angelo, answer his requiring with a *plausible* obedience, agree with his demands to the point. *Shakspeare.*
Judges ought to be more reverend than *plausible*, and more advised than confident. *Bacon.*
They found out that *plausible* and popular pretext of raising an army to fetch in delinquents. *King Charles.*
These were all *plausible* and popular arguments, in which they, who most desired peace, would insist upon many confessions. *Clarendon.*
No treachery to *plausible*, as that which is covered with the robe of a guide. *L'Estrange.*
The case is doubtful, and may be disputed with *plausible* arguments on either side. *South.*
PLAUSIBLENESS. *n. f.* [from *plausibile*.] Speciousness; show of right.
The *plausibleness* of arminianism, and the congruity it hath with the principles of corrupt nature. *Sanderjot.*
The notion of man's free will, and the nature of sin bears along with it a commendable *plausibility* and *plausibleness*. *Mars.*
PLAUSIBLY. *adv.* [from *plausibile*.]
1. With fair show; speciously.
They could talk *plausibly* about that they did not understand, but their learning lay chiefly in flourish. *Collar.*
Thou canst *plausibly* dispute,
Supreme of tears, of angel, man and brute. *Prior.*
2. With applause. Not in use.
I hope they will *plausibly* receive our attempts, or candidly correct our misconceptions. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PLAUSIVE. *adj.* [from *plaudere*, Lat.]
1. Applauding.
2. Plausible. A word not in use.
His *plausible* words
He scatter'd not in ears; but grafted them
To grow there and to bear. *Shakspeare.*

TO PLAY.

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TO PLAY. *v. n.* [plezan, Saxon.]
1. To sport; to frolic; to do something not as a task, but for a pleasure.
On smooth the seal and bended dolphins *play*. *Milton.*
2. To toy; to act with levity.
Thou with eternal wisdom didst converse,
Wisdom thy sister and with her didst *play*. *Milton.*
3. To be dissuaded from work.
I'll bring my young man to school; look where his master comes; 'tis a *playing* day I see. *Shakspeare, Mer. W. of Windsor.*
4. To trifle; to act wantonly and thoughtlessly.
Men are apt to *play* with their healths and their lives as they do with their cloaths. *Temple.*
5. To do something fanciful.
How every fool can *play* upon the word! *Shakspeare.*
6. To practise sarcastick merriment.
I would make use of it rather to *play* upon those I despised, than to trifle with those I loved. *Pope.*
7. To mock; to practise illusion.
I saw him dead; art thou alive, *Shakspeare.*
Or is it fancy plays upon our eye-sight?
8. To game; to contend at some game.
Charles, I will *play* no more to-night;
My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me. *Shakspeare.*
— Sir, I did never win of you before.
When lenity and cruelty *play* for kingdoms,
The gentler gambler is the soonest winner. *Shakspeare.*
O perdurable shame!
Are these the wretches that we *play'd* at dice for. *Shakspeare.*
The low rated English *play* at dice. *Shakspeare.*
The clergyman *play'd* at whist and swobbers. *Swift.*
9. To do any thing trickish or deceitful.
His mother *play'd* false with a smith. *Shakspeare.*
Cawdor, Glamis, all
The wizzard women promis'd; and, I fear,
Thou *play'd'st* most foully for't. *Shakspeare, Macbeth.*
Life is not long enough for a conquest to *play* all her tricks in. *Addison's Spectator, N° 89.*
10. To touch a musical instrument.
Be'y thing that heard him *play*,
E'en the billows of the sea
Hung their heads, and then lay by,
In sweet music is such art,
Killing care, and grief of heart,
Falksleep, or hearing die. *Shakspeare, Henry VIII.*
Thou art as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can *play* well on an instrument. *Elizabeth.*
Tully says, there consisteth in the practice of singing and *playing* on instruments great knowledge, and the most excellent instruction, which rectifies and orders our manners, and softens the heart of anger. *Peacham of Musick.*
Wherein doth our practice of singing and *playing* with instruments in our cathedral churches differ from the practice of David. *Peacham of Musick.*
Clad like a country swain, he pip'd, he sung,
And *playing* drove his jolly troop along. *Dryden.*
Take thy harp and meek thy maid;
Play, my friend! and charm the chymere. *Glanville.*
He applied the pipe to his lips, and began to *play* upon it: the sound of it was exceeding sweet. *Addison's Spectator.*
11. To operate; to act. Used of any thing in motion.
John hath seiz'd Arthur, and it cannot be,
That whilst warm life *plays* in that infant's veins,
The misplac'd John should entertain
One quiet breath of rest. *Shakspeare, King John.*
My wife cried out fire, and you brought out your buckets, and called for engines to *play* against it. *Dryden.*
By constant laws, the food is concocted, the heart beats, the blood circulates, the lungs *play*. *Chyene.*
12. To wanton; to move irregularly.
Citherea all in ledges hid,
Which seem to move and wanton with her breath,
E'en as the waving sedges *play* with wind. *Shakspeare.*
This with exhilarating vapour bland
About their spirits *play'd*, and inmost powers
Made err. *Milton.*
In the streams that from the fountain *play*,
She walk'd her face. *Dryden.*
The setting sun
Plays on their shining arms and burnish'd helmets,
And covers all the field with gleams of fire. *Addison.*
13. To personate a drama.
A lord will hear you *play* to-night;
But I am doubtful of your modities,
Left, over-eying of his odd behaviour,
For yet his honour never heard a *play*,
You break into some merry passion. *Shakspeare.*
E'en kings but *play*; and when their part is done,
Some other, worse or better, mount the throne. *Dryden.*
14. To represent a character.
Courts are theatres, where some men *play*;
Princes, some slaves, and all end in one day. *Donne.*

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15. To act in any certain character.
Thus we *play* the fool with the time, and the spirits of the wife sit in the clouds and mock us. *Shakspeare.*
I did not think to shed a tear
In all my miseries; but thou hast forc'd me,
Out of thy honest truth to *play* the woman. *Shakspeare.*
She hath wrought folly to *play* the whore. *Deut. xxii. 21.*
Be of good courage, and let us *play* the men for our people. *2 Samuel x. 12.*
Alphonse, duke of Ferrara, delighted himself only in turning and *playing* the joiner. *Peacham of Musick.*
'Tis possible these Turks may *play* the villains. *Denham.*
A man has no pleasure in proving that he has *played* the fool. *Callier of Friendship.*
TO PLAY. *v. a.*
1. To put in action or motion; as, he *played* his cannon.
2. To use an instrument of musick.
He *plays* a tickling straw within his nose. *Gay.*
3. To act a mirthful character.
Nature here
Wanton'd as in her prime, and *play'd* at will
Her virgin fancies. *Milton.*
4. To exhibit dramatically.
Your honour's players hearing your amendment,
Are come to *play* a pleasant comedy. *Shakspeare.*
5. To act; to perform.
Doubt would fain have *played* his part in her mind, and called in question, how she should be assured that Zelmane was not Pyrocles. *Sidney, b. ii.*
PLAY. *n. f.*
1. Action not imposed; not work; dismissal from work.
2. Amusement; sport.
My darling and my joy;
For love of me leave off this dreadful *play*. *Fa. Queen.*
Two gentle fawns at *play*. *Milton.*
3. A drama; a comedy of tragedy, or any thing in which characters are represented by dialogue and action.
Only they,
That come to hear a merry *play*,
Will be deceiv'd. *Shakspeare, Henry VIII.*
A *play* ought to be a just image of human nature, representing its humours and the changes of fortune to which it is subject, for the delight and instruction of mankind. *Dryden.*
Visits, *plays* and powder'd beaux. *Swift.*
4. Game; practice of gaming; contest at a game.
I will *play* no more, my mind's not on't;
I did never win of you,
Nor shall not when my fancy's on my *play*. *Shakspeare.*
5. Practice in any contest.
When they can make nothing else on't, they find it the best of their *play* to put it off with a jest. *L'Estrange.*
He was resolv'd not to speak distinctly, knowing his best *play* to be in the dark, and that all his safety lay in the confusion of his talk. *Tillotson.*
In arguing the opponent uses comprehensive and equivocal terms, to involve his adversary in the doubtfulness of his expression, and therefore the answer on his side makes it his *play* to distinguish as much as he can. *Locke.*
Bull's friends advis'd to gender methods with the young lord; but John naturally lov'd rough *play*. *Arbutnot.*
6. Action; employment; office.
The fenice's plea of right by providence
Can last no longer than the present sway;
But justifies the next who comes in *play*. *Dryden.*
7. Practice; action; manner of acting.
Determining, as after I knew, in secret manner, not to be far from the place where we appointed to meet, to prevent any foul *play* that might be offered unto me. *Sidney, b. ii.*
8. Act of touching an instrument.
9. Irregular and wanton motion.
10. A state of agitation or ventilation.
Many have been fav'd, and many may,
Who never heard this question brought in *play*. *Dryden.*
11. Room for motion.
The joints are let exactly into one another, that they have no *play* between them, lest they shake upwards or downwards. *Marsen's Mechanical Exercises.*
12. Liberty of acting; swing.
Should a writer give the full *play* to his mirth, without regard to decency, he might please readers, but must be a very ill man, if he could please himself. *Addison's Freeholder.*
PLAYBOOK. *n. f.* [*play* and *book*.] Book of dramatick compositions.
Your's was a match of common good liking, without any mixture of that ridiculous passion, which has no being but in *playbooks* and romances. *Swift.*
PLAYDAY. *n. f.* [*play* and *day*.] Day exempt from talks or work.
I thought the life of every lady
Should be one continual *playday*;
Balls and masquerades and shows. *Swift's Miscellanies.*

PLAYDEBT.